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A Canadian Takes Umbrage at a Remark by Mr. Nixon

A couple of weeks ago your President Nixon appeared briefly on our national television news. It seems he was explaining to a group of international newspeople how the whole world had conspired against him. During this diatribe, he tilted his head over a shoulder, lowered a corner of his mouth several inches and, dramatically pointing an arm in an unknown direction, declared "and even my Canadian friends are looking down my throat" by compounding our oil shortage.

Mr. Nixon, like hundreds of United States politicians before him is gifted with very convenient lapses in memory. Very obviously, it is his uninational oil conglomerates and his foreign policy that have compounded one of his innumerable dilemmas.

Canada, too, suffers an acute oil shortage in it's maritime provinces. But Canada is making 200,000 barrels of oil per diem available to the eastern United States. And Canada will become totally self-reliant upon its own petroleum reserves much faster that the United States.

The Province of Ontario alone has contributed over $500 million tax dollars for fossil fuel explorations in the far north (a much more substantial per capita contribution than the United States. The Canadian federal government gave Exxon and Shell $58.5 millions to improve our MacKenzie Valley fields and distribution system as a prelude to the Arctic pipeline which, had it more prudently been constructed inland, would have much more effectively and efficiently supplied the oil starved Midwest. After all, the Russians have successfully constructed an immense oil pipeline system over the tundra in Eastern Russia for 20 years and offered this expertise to the United States years ago.

Mr. Nixon also failed to explain to his listeners and viewers that the provinces of Ontario and Quebec export enormous quantities of electrical energy to the United States. Two of Ontario's newest generating units, in the Great Lakes system, are hooked into a United States power grid whereby Ontario can export electricity as far as Texas when needed.

I would remind your readers, too, that it was a United States administration, through international trade leverage and political interference that compelled Canada to accept United States Bomarc I.B.M. missiles and thereby nullify Canada's neutrality.

Did you know too that it was a United States administration that interfered and totally prevented a huge sale of Canadian products to China? This piece of political finagling cost many millions of dollars in the sale of products manufactured by Canadian labor. This was simply a purely vindictive United States move because Canada recognized China before the United States. Later, Mr. Nixon learned to play table-tennis.

No, Mr. Nixon, we Canadians are not "looking down your throat." We are merely watching you try to jingle our coins and meddle with our affairs.

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